

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4795

### 1. Name

Historic 115 – 133 North Duncan Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 115 – 133 North Duncan Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of ten two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in the late 1880s. Some of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted, but most of the row has been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11' and 11'6" wide and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of butterfly shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat wood lintels and sills. Several of the original 4/4 sash survive, but most windows have replacement 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by one or two concrete or brick steps.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**

Survey No. B-4795

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates      c. 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The land on which these houses are built originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18<sup>th</sup> century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the 1870s and 1880s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly-scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**

Survey No. B-4795

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward	date	
Organization	The Alley House Project	telephone	
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.	state & zip code	Maryland 21204
city, town	Baltimore		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



A L

B-4745

115-133 N. Duncan  
3 ACTO HD.

FFERSON

RLEANS

AYETTE

OUNT

MORE

N. WOLFE

N. WASHINGTON

N. CASTLE

N. CHESTER

N. COLLINGTON

N. COLLINGTON AV.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL NO 17

PUBLIC SCHOOL

CHESTER ST. M. E. CHURCH

MOYER ST.

125

100

105

105

115

105

103

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

105

100

112

110

105

B-4795  
115-133 N. Duncan Street  
Block 1705, Lots 058-067  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





115-155 N. Duncan  
C-2

B-4745

115-113 N. Duncan St.

BACTO. MD

C. Belfrage

8/97

1/2





125 N. Duncan  
C-2

B-4795  
125 N. Duncan St.  
KATON, MD  
C. Beljore  
8/97  
2/2